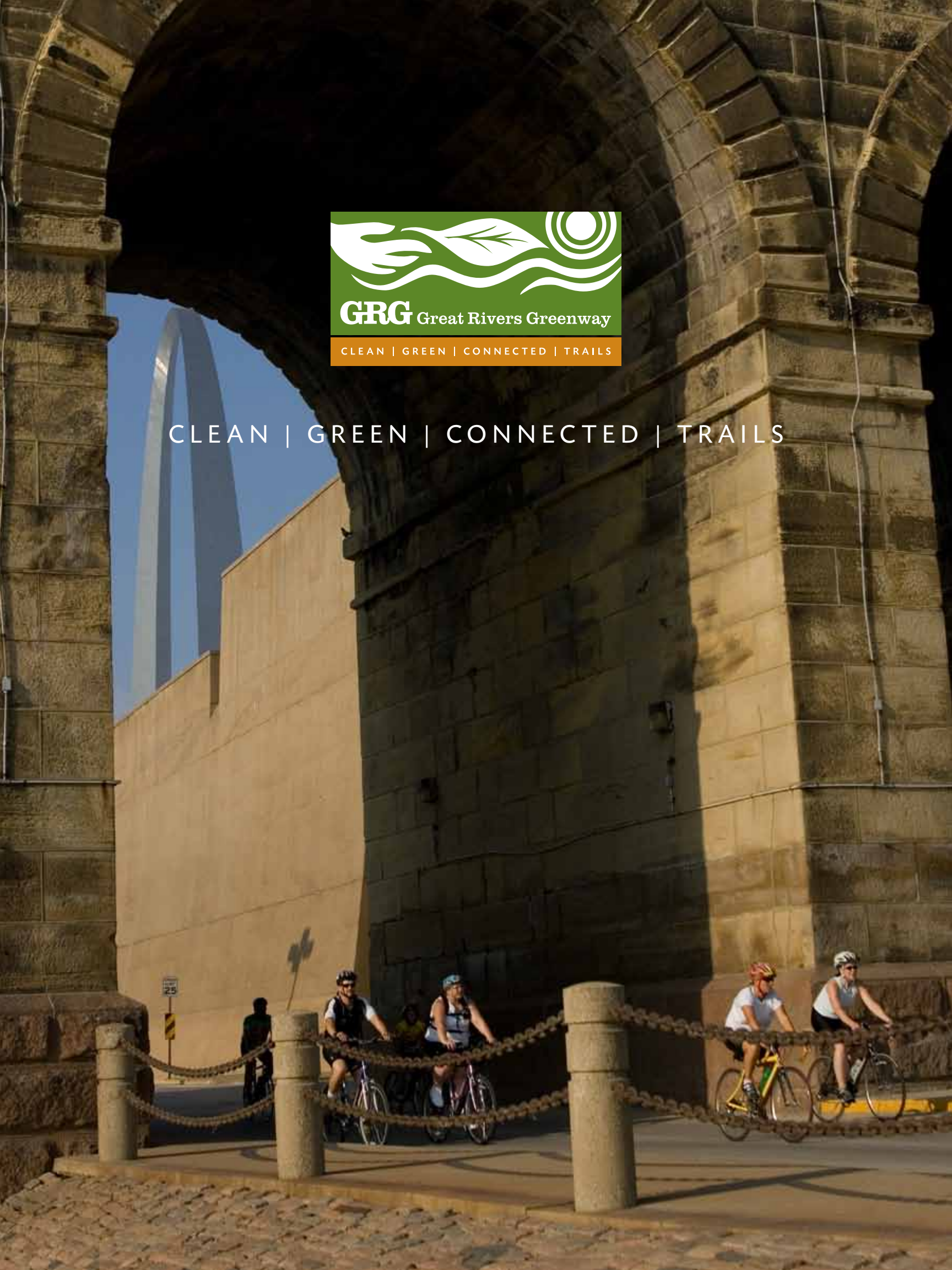




CLEAN | GREEN | CONNECTED | TRAILS





GRG—Great Rivers Greenway was established in 2000 to create a clean, green, connected St. Louis region. Today, many new and exciting projects demonstrate the social, economic development, and environmental stewardship benefits of a region-wide system of greenways, parks, and trails.



SHAPING THE CHARACTER OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION

With more than 150 miles of new trails and greenways completed throughout St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County, GRG is transforming the region to meet the health, fitness, and recreational needs of individuals, families, and communities.

Designed for bicycling, walking, running, or just enjoying the great outdoors, each trail and greenway is known by a different name that reflects the historical or geographical significance of its location or unique characteristics. The Riverfront Trail, Grant's Trail, Riverwoods Trail, St. Vincent Trail, River des Peres Trail, Dardenne Trail at BaratHaven, Missouri Research Park Trail, McKinley Bridge Bikeway & Trestle, Bike St. Louis, and others were all developed by GRG.

The blueprint for GRG is to develop a region-wide system of greenways, parks, and trails that will encircle the region. Named "The River Ring," the 600-mile web of more than 45 greenways will span two states and an area of 1,216 square miles. In addition to providing new opportunities for recreation, physical activity, and transportation, The River Ring will have tangible social, environmental, and economic development benefits.

SOCIAL BENEFITS



Trails and greenways provide numerous health and social benefits. Health benefits range from encouraging physical exercise by expanding recreational opportunities to enhancing people's psychological well-being by connecting with nature and the outdoors. Social benefits include increased community involvement and more livable neighborhoods.

GRG actively supports programs that encourage social interaction. Sponsorships include the annual *Moonlight Ramble* presented by the St. Louis chapter of Hostelling International and local participation with Trailnet on a wide range of special events and trail rides.

Examples of recently completed trails and greenways that exemplify social benefits include the following:

CHESTERFIELD LEVEE TRAIL

The four-mile trail is a creative and adaptive reuse of a levee that was initially designed only to protect the City of Chesterfield and adjacent communities from flooding.

DEER CREEK-SHADY CREEK GREENWAY

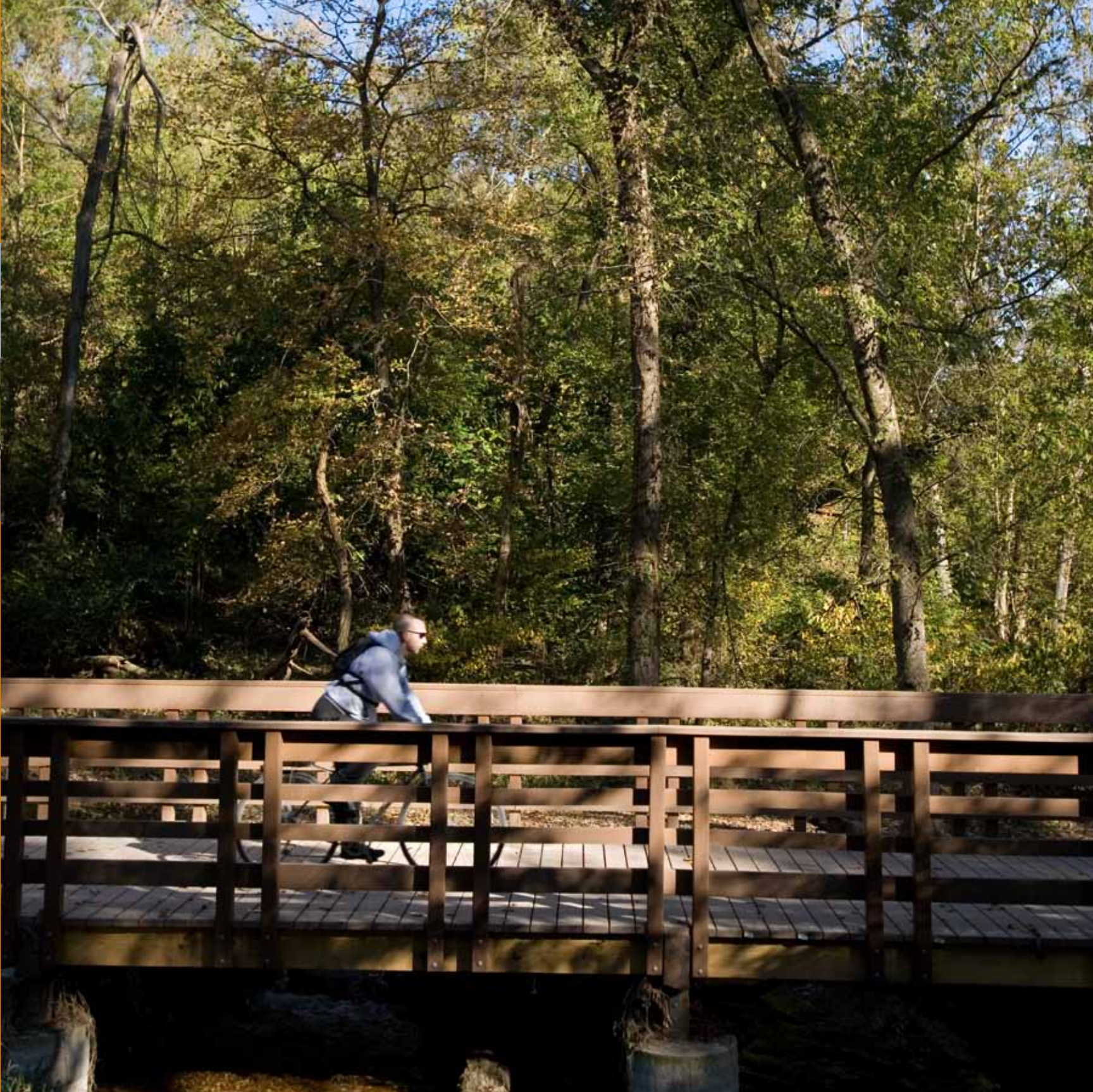
The first one-mile segment is highlighted by a new 132-ft. long by 10-ft. wide steel bridge that has flat surface access for the disabled, as well as for bicyclists and walkers. Eventually, the three-mile greenway will span areas of Brentwood, Maplewood, and Webster Groves.

RIVER DES PERES GREENWAY

The approximately five-mile River des Peres Greenway links surrounding neighborhoods with parks, business districts, employment centers, and other institutions.

SUNSET GREENWAY

The Sunset Trail in the City of Florissant's Sunset Park provides access into Old Town, a vibrant commercial district and site of many local community festivals. The trail also connects St. Ferdinand Park to Sunset Park and the Missouri River Greenway in north St. Louis County.



PUBLIC SUPPORTS TRAILS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Usage Is Strong. More than six in 10 survey participants (61.8%) said that they or a member of their immediate family use walking and biking trails in the three-jurisdiction area.

Taxpayer/Resident Support Is Solid. With regard to taxpayer funding for parks and trails, respondents were asked their opinion of this use of public funds. More than nine in 10 (90.9%) believe it is a “very good use of funds” or “a good use of funds.”

Trails and Parks Are Favorably Rated. Impressively, nine out of 10 survey participants (89.9%) rate area trails and parks on a par with other large metropolitan areas. Of these, two in 10 (20.7%) believe they are better than most other cities.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A photograph of a group of cyclists on a bridge. In the foreground, several bicycles are parked along a metal railing. A group of four cyclists, wearing yellow and black gear, are standing on the bridge deck. In the background, another cyclist is visible further down the bridge. The bridge has a complex steel truss structure, and the sky is clear and blue.

Greenways and trails conserve resources and provide nature-based recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. They also can protect Missouri's natural resources, preserve natural habitats and ecosystems, and connect communities.

GRG is a leader in integrating environmental stewardship initiatives. As Bike St. Louis and the McKinley Bridge Bikeway demonstrate on a daily basis, well-planned bicycle and pedestrian routes can reduce commuters' reliance on automobiles, which is good for the environment. Other initiatives include using permeable pavers to reduce runoff from rain water and to recharge groundwater supply for a new parking lot at the River des Peres Greenway, and installing self-composting restrooms at Grant's Trail.



While environmental stewardship is an integral part of every GRG project, the following examples present a good cross-section of the many different ways environmental stewardship has been approached:

BIKE ST. LOUIS

With 77-miles of Bike St. Louis-designated bicycle lanes and on-street routes now available, bicyclists now have great access to a wide range of employment, residential, educational, cultural, and recreational centers from St. Louis City and St. Louis County in Missouri to Madison County in Illinois.

DARDENNE GREENWAY AT BARATHAVEN

A three-mile trail provides access to scenic areas along Dardenne Creek in St. Charles County, as well as to a 15-acre stocked lake and forested areas.

MISSOURI RESEARCH PARK TRAIL

Although located deep within an office park, this three-quarter mile trail features a completely natural setting that encompasses two different ecosystems – a forested area in the northern sector and a wetlands area in the southern sector.

RIVERWOODS TRAIL

The 1.5-mile, tree-shaded wetland trail along the Missouri River provides excellent access to a little known urban forest full of shady cottonwoods, maples, and plenty of wildlife.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



It is widely accepted that outdoor recreation and greenways contribute to the economy and livability of communities. Just as the residential real estate market consistently demonstrates that people are willing to pay more for a home located close to parks and open spaces, commercial property values also are positively impacted. In addition to benefiting citizens and businesses in local communities, greenways, parks, and trails also are important for tourism, which has a direct and immediate impact on the local economy.





Several projects recently completed by the GRG demonstrate qualities that signal great opportunities for future economic growth and development. They include:

BOSCHERT GREENWAY

The 1.7-mile trail segment from Boschertown Road to New Town Boulevard creates a continuous 7.5-mile trail with connections to existing trails in Fountain Lakes Park and Fox Hill Park.

CENTENNIAL GREENWAY AT OLIVE & I-170 INTERCHANGE

In conjunction with a totally redesigned interchange at Olive Boulevard and I-170, the four-block long streetscape on both sides of Olive Boulevard connects commercial districts in University City and Olivette and improves bicycle and pedestrian access.

MCKINLEY BRIDGE BIKEWAY & TRESTLE

A cantilevered lane spanning the Mississippi River connects on the Missouri side to The Trestle, a paved pathway that distinguishes St. Louis as only the third city in the world, after New York City and Paris, to convert a historic elevated steel structure into a linear urban recreation area. The Trestle connects at street level to the popular 11-mile Riverfront Trail, and plans are underway for a continuation to a second trestle leading into downtown St. Louis.

ST. VINCENT PARK AND UMSL GREENWAY

Two segments of the St. Vincent Greenway include 1.3 miles through the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis and 2.3 miles through St. Vincent Park. Eventually, the St. Vincent Greenway will be a seven-mile expanse from NorthPark to Forest Park, encompassing three major parks, several small neighborhood parks, and seven existing MetroLink stations.



The River Ring is a bold initiative to transform the St. Louis area into a clean, green, and connected region where its two million residents have access to a connected park and trail system that is close to home, work, or recreation destinations.

To deliver its mission, GRG works closely across the region in partnership with municipal, governmental, and public agencies, as well as private and nonprofit organizations and neighborhood groups. While each entity has a vested interest in its local project, they all share the vision for how an interconnected network of greenways, parks, and trails benefits the whole region.

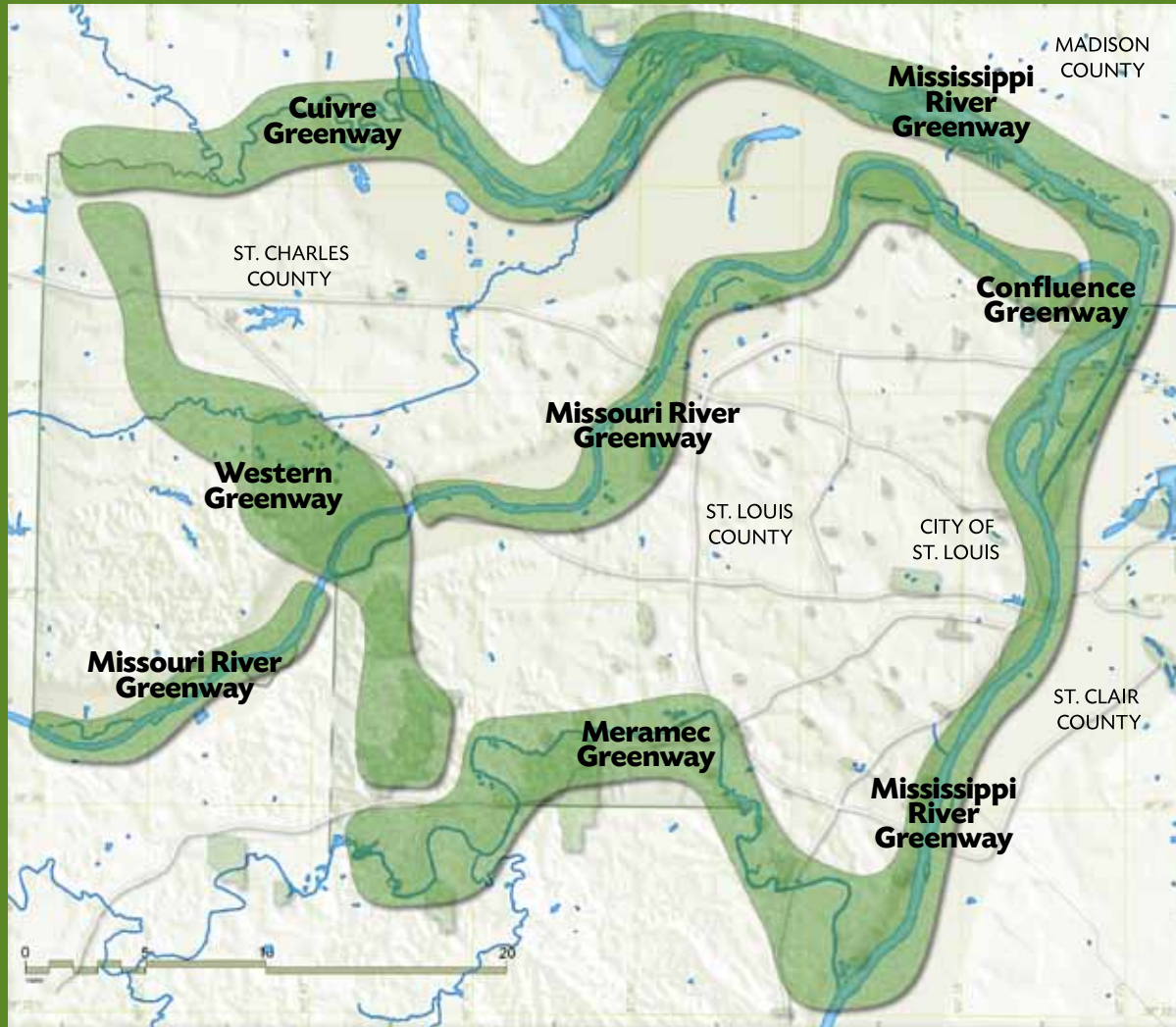
Creating an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails will greatly enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. New parks and miles of trails will connect communities and neighborhoods, bringing people together, stimulating economic development, and inspiring innovative green space initiatives.

As the regional plan for the River Ring takes shape, St. Louis is emerging as an inspirational model for comparable green space initiatives nationwide.

Please visit www.grgstl.org for additional information about upcoming events, current projects, trip planning, trail maps, photo journals, and much more.

Photo Credits: GRG Staff / Trailnet / Mike DeFillipo / HNTB Engineering / Friends

THE RIVER RING





GRG—Great Rivers Greenway

6714A Delmar Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63112
www.grgstl.org

ST. LOUIS
RIVERFRONT

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Assets

Cash and investments	\$ 26,979,514
Sales taxes receivable	1,574,449
Interest receivable	98,298
Other receivables; Federal, State Grants, etc.	40,492
Prepaid expenses	26,170
Intangible assets; Bond Issuance Cost, net	<u>350,042</u>
	<u>29,068,965</u>
Land and land improvements	56,697,993
Construction in process	9,181,168
Furniture and fixtures	165,783
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,893,163)</u>
	Total property and equipment, net
	<u>61,151,780</u>
	Total assets
	<u><u>\$ 90,220,745</u></u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 462,614
Accrued wages and payroll taxes	56,790
Accrued interest	96,873
Unearned revenue	194,106
Bonds payable	<u>27,980,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>28,790,383</u>
Net Assets	
Unrestricted net assets	278,582
Investment in capital assets	<u>61,151,780</u>
	Total net assets
	<u>61,430,362</u>
	Total liabilities and net assets
	<u><u>\$ 90,220,745</u></u>

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Schedule of Revenues

Sales tax revenues	\$ 9,640,861
Grants	271,872
Investment income	271,335
Gain on sale of land	—
Rental income	460,376
Miscellaneous income	22,270
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 10,666,714</u>

Schedule of Expenditures

Salary and fringe benefits	\$ 317,623
Contractual and professional services	456,096
Office and support	189,903
Space and occupancy	69,509
Depreciation expense	25,765
Total Operating Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,058,896</u>

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Schedule of Project Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Greenway Description	Project Description	
Confluence Greenway	River Ring	
	McKinley Bridge Bikeway	\$ 16,707
	Branch Street Trestle	26,255
	Riverfront Trail	47,759
	Iron Horse Trestle	701,396
	Americorp Trail Ranger Program	78,780
	Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	22,150
	Chain of Rocks Bridge	155
	<u>893,202</u>	
Missouri River Greenway	Chesterfield Levee Trail SEED Project	309,165
	Riverwoods Park Trails Signage	40,508
	Truman Park Trail Connector	251
	Ameren UE Railroad Trail	82,190
	Earth City Levee Trail	4,565
	Fort Belle Fontaine Park Trail	31
	Aquaport to Creve Coeur	14,246
	Planning & Design	18
	<u>450,974</u>	
Meramec Greenway	12 Mile Initiative	17,768
	12 Mile Initiative - Castlewood	2,346
	Eureka Connector Trail	1,611
	Trailhead Development	129,304
	River Mile 25 - St. Louis County	50,717
	River Mile 18 - City of Fenton	16
	River Mile 17	17,628
	River Mile 6 to 9 St. Louis County	23,445
	Willow Beach to Lemay Ferry	7,990
	Packwood Park - Rock Hollow Trail	17,885
	Al Foster Trail Phase III	160,493
Project Management	3,897	
	<u>433,100</u>	
Mississippi River Greenway	Cliff Cave Trail	3,103
	MSD Lagoons to JB Co. Park	371,726
	<u>374,829</u>	

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Schedule of Project Expenditures (continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Greenway Description	Project Description	
	Regional Greenways	
Dardenne Greenway	Rabbit Run Park Extension	\$ 566,667
	Trail Amenities	31,289
	Faron	47,080
	SEED Projects	534,904
	Cottleville Trails to Faron	52,450
		<u>1,232,390</u>
Centennial Greenway	I-270 to Creve Coeur Park	47,016
	Shaw Park to Greensfelder Park	150,697
	St. Charles-Katy to Heritage Crossing	56,576
	Washington University to Delmar Trail	116,861
	I-170 to Olive Interchange	183,927
	Olive to I-170	39,627
	Ruth Park Trail	11
Planning Study and SEED Projects	(144,256)	
		<u>450,459</u>
River Des Peres Greenway	River Des Peres Extension	246,897
	I-55 to Jefferson Barracks Park	186,141
		<u>433,038</u>
St. Vincent Greenway	UMSL Trail	4,786
	Hanley - UMSL Trail	148,421
	Rock Road Park, Riparian	18,707
	St. Vincent Park Trail	(56,228)
	Plymouth-Etzel Trail	52,550
	Plymouth-Rock Road Trail	37,284
	DeBaliviere Project	106,225
Hanley MetroLink to Northpark Trail	11,535	
		<u>323,280</u>
Western Greenway	Trail and Trailhead Amenities	295
	Eagle Valley Trail	63,000
	Hamilton Carr Trail, Phase III	434
		<u>63,729</u>
Maline Creek Greenway	City of Ferguson Trailhead	<u>200,000</u>

Metropolitan Park and Recreation District
d/b/a Great Rivers Greenway
Schedule of Project Expenditures (continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2009

Greenway Description	Project Description	
	Local Greenways	
Gravois Creek Greenway	Grant's Trail - Phase II	\$ 37,167
	Clydesdale Park Connector	7,361
	Grant's Trail - Phase IV	17,886
	Grant's Trail - Phase V	216,024
	I-44 Overpass Branding	504,936
		783,374
Sunset Greenway	Sunset Greenway/Sunset Park Trail Exten.	44,867
	Sunset Riverfront Trail	826,152
		871,019
Chouteau Greenway	Marketing Study	5,868
	Planning and Design	7,061
		12,929
Shady Creek Greenway	Deer Creek Park & Center Trail	64,885
	Deer Creek Center to RDP Confluence Trail	56,365
	Planning Study and SEED Project	5,236
		126,486
Busch Greenway	BaratHaven to Missouri Research Park	83,695
	Missouri Research Park Trail Connector	40,066
		123,761
Boschert Greenway	Boschertown Road to New Town Boulevard Trail	159,745
	Collaboratives, Initiatives and Other	
	Collaborative Planning Bike St. Louis - Phase II	16,717
	Bike St. Louis - Phase III	48,847
	Bicycle Programming	83,645
	Programming and Events	28,682
	Regional Plan Update	29,696
	Marketing - KETC	22,500
	Marketing - Strategy	144,567
		374,654
Other	Depreciation and Amortization Expense Related to Projects	2,281,491
	Bond Interest Expense	1,198,896
	Land Acquisitions	411,796
		3,892,183
	Total Project Expenditures	\$ 11,199,152

Note: Above amounts include capitalized expenses

Great Rivers Greenway

Board of Directors

St. Louis City

Alberta Dillard – Member
Michael Murray – Member
Neal Perryman – Vice President

St. Louis County

Robert Epstein – Member
Jim Hall – Secretary
Judith Metzger – Member
Glenn Powers – Treasurer
Monica Huddleston – Member

Saint Charles County

John McGuire – President
Bernard Dubray

The Process

Great Rivers Greenway's board has 10 members—three from St. Louis City; five from St. Louis County; and two from St. Charles County.

All board members are appointed by the executive of the city or county they represent.

The board meets monthly at the District's offices. Visit the **meetings** page on our website to see our upcoming agenda.

Great Rivers Greenway—Staff

David Fisher – Executive Director
Todd Antoine
Lonny Boring
Carey Bundy
Glenna Nesbit
Patrick Owens
Nancy Thompson
Janet Wilding

County Executives

The Honorable Charlie Dooley
County Executive, St. Louis County
The Honorable Steve Ehlmann
County Executive, St. Charles County
The Honorable Francis Slay
Mayor, St. Louis City

Great Rivers Greenway—GRG is the public organization leading the development of a region-wide system of high-quality greenways, parks and trails known as The River Ring. Designed to link communities and to stimulate environmental, social, and economic benefits, The River Ring, when completed, will cover an area of 1,216 square miles across St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County, Missouri. By connecting residents and visitors to parks, businesses, and college campuses, as well as historical, cultural, and natural landmarks, GRG's vision for regional improvement is a valuable asset built on partnerships with the community.

For more information about GRG, visit www.grgstl.org

Letter from the Executive Director and Board President

Great Rivers Greenway-GRG is poised for growth. While trails and greenways continue to be developed, adding wonderful new vistas for bicycling, walking, and enjoying the great outdoors, we have also launched several new initiatives to ensure our long-term success.

Two of the most significant projects include beginning the process for updating the regional plan for the River Ring, as well as preparing GRG's first comprehensive Bicycle Master Plan. Scheduled for completion in the second half of 2010, both plans are of vital importance. Together, the regional plan update and the Bicycle Master Plan will create a vision for a sense of place that is fully-integrated with our best aspirations for our local communities.

While the regional plan update will guide the priorities for implementing the planned 640 miles of interconnected greenways, parks, and trails, the Bicycle Master Plan will incorporate existing community bicycle plans and propose solutions to the barriers that inhibit bicycling as an active form of transportation. Both plans will provide a measure of our success in adhering to our guiding principles to support economic development, social capital, and a sustainable environment.

Consistent with GRG's focus on public-private participation, a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are being formed to advise GRG on each plan. The committees represent a collaboration of diverse citizens, community leadership, and experienced design professionals from our three jurisdictions – St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County.

GRG also celebrated several accomplishments in 2009, including St. Louis receiving its first designation as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in recognition of work done of the past several years by Bike St. Louis, a community partnership managed by GRG. Celebrations also were held to open a 1-mile segment of the Dardenne Greenway at Legacy Park in Cottleville and a 2-mile, on-street extension of Grant's Trail in Kirkwood. In addition, the McKinley Bikeway & Trestle received awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Last, but not least, GRG was a proud sponsor of the sweeping PBS documentary series, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* by Ken Burns, which was broadcast by KETC Channel 9.

With a focus on the future, GRG initiated a benchmark study of trail usage using a methodology developed by the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation (NBPD) Project. A decision to relocate GRG offices in spring 2010 will provide a more efficient space with the flexibility for expansion.

It was also announced in 2009 that David Fisher, GRG's founding executive director, would retire in early 2010. After nearly nine years at GRG, in addition to a more than 30-year career in parks administration, David has been GRG's first executive in creating and bringing to life the first phase of a regional, interconnected system of greenways, parks, and trails for hiking, bicycling, and a wide range of other outdoor activities to benefit our entire region. Community participation, regional leadership, and collaborative partnerships will continue to distinguish GRG as we move forward.



David Fisher
Executive Director



John M. McGuire, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors